

## The Daily Press.



PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING  
(Except Monday)

At the  
DAILY PRESS BUILDING,  
211 Twenty-fifth Street by the  
DAILY PRESS COMPANY.

C. E. Thacker—Editor and Publisher.  
L. E. Pugh—Advertising Manager.

The Daily Press is delivered by carriers anywhere in the city limits for 30 cents a week. Any irregularities reported to the office of publication, will receive careful and prompt attention. Orders for delivery of the Daily Press for either residence or place of business may be made by postal card or telephone.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.  
(Payable invariably in advance.)  
One Month ..... \$1.50  
Three Months ..... 4.50  
Six Months ..... 8.50  
One Year ..... 16.00

TELEPHONE NUMBERS  
Editorial Rooms, Bell Phone No. 14  
Business Office, Bell Phone No. 181

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Entered at the Newport News, Va., Postoffice as Second-class matter.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1909.

## HUMOR OF THE SITUATION CONCEALED.

In a jocular vein, the Richmond Times-Dispatch says:

"Admiral Robley D. Evans, we read, laughs at the talk of war with Japan. The number of men in the United States who maintain absolute gravity upon this subject could be put into a hall bedroom."

Among the thoughtful people—persons who observe events and are thereby enabled to form a fairly accurate estimate of a foreign nation's fighting strength and of the courage and morale of its fighting men—it isn't likely that there are enough men in the United States spilling for a war with Japan to fill half the space of a hall bedroom, provided hostilities may be avoided with honor.

Certainly no one hankers for a conflict between the United States and Japan at this particular time, when about the best we could do in the Philippine Islands, at Hawaii and at San Pedro, Cal., would be to station men with megaphones in commanding positions ashore to holler "Shoo!" at the Japanese fleet and the Japanese army transports should the same approach with hostile intent.

A couple of months ago, when Admiral Sperry was in the Pacific, the Japs, too, were amiably inclined.

But now Sperry is assembling his sixteen fighting ships at Gibraltar preparatory to starting on the last lap of the homeward voyage. On Saturday last some white students beat up a Japanese student on the campus of the University of California. On Sunday it was announced (in the language of the Washington Post) that "The members of the Japanese Association have expressed their intention to use the incident as a further weapon to embarrass the relations which officially exist between this government and their own."

At this writing Tokio hasn't been heard from with regard to the assault upon the Japanese student at Berkeley, Cal. At least, not so far as the public knows.

But the Japanese Association in America within twenty-four hours displayed more nerve and grit in resentment of an act of indignity to ward a lone Japanese student than the whole of the United States has far manifested in opposition to the dictation from Tokio of the conduct of public schools in California which visits humiliation upon thousands and thousands of American pupils.

Japan in recent years has developed into a commercial nation—a manufacturing country, one reaching out for foreign trade. But in the pursuit of the almighty dollar, these people have yet to arrive at the point of willingness to overlook the mistreatment of even one of their number because resentment might involve a temporary falling out in international trade.

America knows better than Japan the game of scramble for dollars. But recent events indicate that we might profitably take lessons from the yellow Orientals in preserving a nation's honor. The United States has passed over an insult offered by a

foreign country to a whole State. Sperry's fleet is still in the Mediterranean. Everybody hereabouts is anxious to witness its entry into Hampton Roads on February 22. This will be an inspiring spectacle of a magnitude never before witnessed on the Atlantic coast.

Yet many people—perhaps a large majority—would applaud should news come from Washington that the sixteen big fighters had been ordered to retrace their course through the Suez, to take station as sentinels to guard the American Pacific Islands and the western coast against a game, but upstart nation which believes its triumph over Russia presaged that it could whip the world.

## ALDERMAN'S EXPLANATION INADEQUATE.

According to the Richmond News-Leader, Dr. Alderman has explained by telegraph from New York the awarding of the Daughters of the Confederacy prize to the young Minnesota lady who denounced Robert E. Lee as a traitor.

Without undertaking to go fully into the subject, Dr. Alderman wired the News-Leader that he "understood it to be his duty (as one of the judges) to select the prize winner on a basis of literary merit."

In this case the winner received a prize of \$100 offered by the Daughters of the Confederacy for the best historical essay on the life and character of General Lee.

The Daily Press has nowhere seen it stated that these patriotic women offered a reward for an article based upon sectional prejudice, disregard for the facts or phantasmal gymnastics of the imagination, however perfect the rhetoric and style of composition.

It does not appear that they intended that fiction or fiction, or both, should outweigh facts.

As the Southern people generally understand the situation, the prize was not offered with the view that some person should attain the 100 mark in grammatical excellency or in fluency of expression whether or not the substance be true or false.

As an illustration which, however, does not exactly parallel the case at point: Suppose the Daughters of the Revolution, or the Daughters of the American Revolution should offer a prize for the best essay upon the life and character of George Washington, all American and English writers being eligible as entrants to the contest. Then imagine, for the sake of argument, that Rudyard Kipling should evolve from his mighty and fateful brain a treatise which paraded Washington in the garb of a traitor because he was a rebel and exalted Benedict Arnold.

Of course Kipling wouldn't do it, but it is within the bounds of reason to suppose that if he chose, he might furnish an essay of superior "literary correctness" in a competition of this kind, provided the judges did not compel him to stick to facts. Kipling, kin opposed America in the revolution; Miss Boyesen's kin opposed the South and Lee in the Civil War.

The women, either directly or indirectly, have built most of the Confederate monuments and statues to Confederate heroes in the South.

Practically all the newspapers assisting in this laudable work. But very few of the great Virginia dailies thus far have editorially found fault with Dr. Alderman for sanctioning the branding of Robert E. Lee as a traitor.

## REPUBLICAN SENATORS TOGETHER ON BROWNVILLE.

It is reported from Washington, that to please Senator Foraker, who soon is to retire to private life, the two Republican factions in the United States Senate have come together upon the question of the Brownsville incident.

The Republican senators have agreed among themselves to adopt a compromise which is in opposition to the wishes of the administration and to the expressed sentiment of the Democratic side of the chamber.

It appears that the new proposition provides for the appointment of a commission of army officers instructed to re-enlist every member of the discharged battalion of negro infantry who cannot be proven guilty of the charge of shooting up the ex-slaves.

As all past efforts to effect proof have heretofore proved futile, and for this very reason President Roosevelt desired the entire battalion should the Republican senators agreement be enacted into law, those

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who participated in the Brownsville crime and the others who knew of such participation but would not tell, will all return to the ranks "with honor."

If the Democratic senators be in earnest, it will be easy enough under the rules of the Senate for the minority to defeat this proposition at this session which ends on March 4. Although in a small minority, these senators opposed to the confirmation of Crum as collector of customs at Charleston, successfully held the majority's will in check over a space of three years.

## A STRONG RECRUIT.

Senator Frazier of Tennessee, speaking in the Senate the other day, said that the one solution of the negro problem is to send the negro back to Africa. Not Africa necessarily. The world has plenty of tropical and semitropical territories, which can be bought if money enough is offered, and which will make a suitable home for the negroes at that good time we believe is surely coming, when they will separate from us and depart in peace to organize a government and country of their own.

We are glad to welcome Senator Frazier as a valuable recruit to the movement for separation of the races; at which the News Leader has been hearing these many years. (The Savannah, Ga., News says the senator's speech will be resented in the South, where the negro is needed on the farm. But the fact is the negro is leaving the farms or taking up land of his own faster and faster every year. As a farm hand he is disappearing. We have educated him away from the condition of life and between prohibition in the country and attractions in the city and at the North, he is being driven and drawn from the white man's fields. In some parts of the South it has been found necessary to replace the negro with white labor and the results have been satisfactory. Here in Virginia where the negro has left the farms the white man has been forced to use less land but to use it better than he did before, and to earn profits where he used to make losses. Richmond News-Leader.

## WITH THE PARAGRAPHERS.

Let the committee appointed to improve farm life keep the hens laying when eggs are 48 cents a dozen and upward.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Hon. Ollie James says he has a free speech will be suppressed, and that need not worry him; his speech comes under the head of music.—Washington Post.

The English and the Scotch have enough sense of humor not to be taking Carrie Nation seriously.—New York Mail.

It is outrageous, these people charging that the country's most eminent Funeral Naturalist is a brutal Game Butcher.—Baltimore Sun.

New York is shipping her surplus babies to New Orleans. Southern hospitality is equal to the emergency.—Lexington Herald.

Professor E. V. Osawa, of Wisconsin University, says all children are born prevaricators. And a good many of them never renounce that bright in after years.—Richmond News Leader.

## TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION HELD INTERESTING SESSION

Met at the West End Academy and Listened to Several Interesting Topics.

The Elizabeth City County Teachers' Association met in the High school building at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. After the business session, Miss Nellie E. Carr, who was chairman of the program committee for this meeting, presided. The topics for discussion were "How to Best Control the Current Events and Conversational Topics in the Schools" and "The Management of a School Library." Miss Emma Field Pope and Mr. John Bowen of the High school faculty, were the speakers in the first topic. Miss Carr led the discussion of the school library question and some very valuable and helpful suggestions were brought out by the various teachers.

After the regular program a very interesting retrospective exhibition was given by Miss Andrews, of the Normal school. This proved very instructive to all of the teachers and a vote of thanks was extended Miss Andrews for her kindness and courtesy. The next meeting will be held at the Phoebus Graded school on Monday, March 1. The committee for the next program will be Miss Lily Chisholm of the West End Academy; Miss Jane Hamilton, Bryan, of the Phoebus Graded school, and Miss Jeanette Luvall, of Sykes-Eaton.

## INSURANCE COMPANIES

## RESISTING THE TAX

But Virginia Fireman Will Make Determined Fight in Behalf of Relief Tax.

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 1.—Virginia firemen are preparing a resolute action of the Underwriters' Association in their move to defeat and have declared unconstitutional the act of the general assembly which provides for a tax of one per cent on the premiums written in this state for the benefit of old, infirm and disabled firemen.

The last general assembly passed the bill which imposed the tax, the matter having been fought out for many years in the general assembly. The companies have always been very strong and influential enough to defeat the measure when it has come before the general assembly, but when it finally passed the legislature and became a law they announced that they would not abide the measure until the courts had passed on its validity.

Colonel Richard C. Marshall, of Portsmouth, counsel for the association, himself a veteran fireman, who has charge of the legal affairs of the state, was here Friday and met lawyers and went over the situation with them. He then announced that he had employed Messrs. Richard E. Byrd, of Winchester; Judge William Gordon Robertson, of Roanoke, and Samuel L. Kelly of this city, to assist him in resisting the action of the insurance companies.

The insurance companies will be represented by Randolph Harrison and A. R. Long of Lynchburg, and King, Spaulding & Little, of Atlanta, the latter firm being the general counsel for the Southeastern Tariff Association.

Will Seek Injunction. The companies will apply to the circuit court of the city of Richmond for an injunction to restrain Colonel Burnett, the insurance commissioner, from collecting the data from the companies by which he may fix and determine the assessment the companies are to pay to the state and to be in turn paid by the state to the organized fire companies of the state for the relief of the disabled firemen.

That will be the first step, and when the application is made for the injunction some date will be fixed for the hearing by Judge Scott. It is generally accepted that the case will eventually find its way to the supreme court of appeal and that the matter will be fought to a bitter end, both sides being determined to contest every inch of ground.

Colonel Marshall is firm in his belief that the validity of the act will be sustained in the courts, as the bill was prepared with great care by one of the ablest lawyers of the state after an examination of the same subject. The array of counsel in the case will serve to insure the legal fraternity that not one of the nice points of the law that can be brought to bear upon the question will be omitted.

It is not known just when the application for the injunction to restrain Colonel Burnett will be made, but it may come at any time, as the department of insurance has issued its forms for the information in order to fix the assessments. The time for filing answers is expected to bring the court proceedings to bear in the controversy.

President Helps Orphans. Hundreds of orphans have been helped by the President of the Industrial and Orphan's Home at Mason, Ga., who writes: "We have used Electric Bitters in this institution for nine years. It has proved a most excellent medicine for Stomach, Liver and Kidney troubles. We regard it as one of the best family medicines on earth." It invigorates the vital organs, purifies the blood, aids digestion, creates appetite. To strengthen and build up thin, pale, weak children or run-down people it has no equal. Clear for female complaints. Only 50c at all druggists.

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